(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King Disappointed In March —He'll Try Again Next Week

By THOMAS BeVIER

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. came to Memphis to star in what was billed as a "dress rehearsal" for his April 22 "Poor People's Crusade" on Washington.

By his own nonviolent standards, the rehearsal was a flop.

Next week, he says, he'll come back for another try.

"We are going to have a massive nonviolent demonstration in Memphis," he said at a press conference yesterday before flying back to Atlanta and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) headquarters.

The question being asked in Memphis, the nation and the world is whether — with the increasing militancy of the black youth — anyone can say with certainty that a nonviolent demonstration will stay that way.

"I am convinced we can have a nonviolent demonstration," Dr. King said, but added it would be impossible to "guarantee" that there wouldn't be any violence.

It was significant that Dr. King was more than a half-hour late to his 11:30 a.m. press conference because he was meeting with three members of The Invaders, a Memphis black power group.

They refused to give their names and would say only that "we will have a press conference when this is all over" before they went into Dr. King's $29-a-day room at the Holiday Inn-Riverfront.

Dr. King said he did not realize when he came to Memphis there were those in the Negro community who "were talking about violence."

"We (SCLC) had no part in the planning of the march. Our intelligence was totally nil."

He said that if he had known there were persons likely to start violence he would have made them parade marshals, a move that has been successful in other marches.

He criticized the press for reporting he left the march in haste. He said he left calmly because "I will not lead a violent march" and that while he walked with aides to a car he was "agonizing over what had happened."

(Asst. Police Chief Henry Lux said over the police radio at 11:27 a.m. Thursday the march was apparently without leadership and Dr. King had asked for a police escort. The

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 3-30-68
Edition:
Author:
Editor: FRANK R. AHLGREN
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

157-1092-Sub-1

SEARCHED ..... INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED ..... FILED .....
APR 3 1968
FBI — MEMPHIS

first report of violence was seven minutes earlier).

Dr. King said he did not think the riot "will in any way affect" his Washington plans. He is still to determine how much of his SCLC staff he can spare to organize next week's march here.

Later in Washington, the Rev. Andrew Young, Dr. King's top lieutenant, said the main thrust of the Washington demonstration would be delayed for about two weeks and steps taken to avoid violence. The Rev. Mr. Young said "symbolic delegation," including Dr. King, will reach Washington on April 22.

He said Thursday's march was "poorly planned," which amounts to criticism of the Rev. James M. Lawson Jr., who Dr. King himself has called "the leading nonviolence theoretician in the country."

Dr. Lawson is in charge of strategy for Memphis Negro ministers. He is pastor of Centenary Methodist Church. The Rev. Mr. Lawson did not entirely agree with Dr. King's assessments.

For instance, Dr. King said the black power advocates he met with said there had been lack of communication between them and the ministers —they felt "rejected."

"There has been communication," said the Rev. Mr. Lawson. "I don't accept that."

It was the Rev. Mr. Lawson who asked Dr. King here. For about 10 years the Memphis minister has served with SCLC.

He agreed with Dr. King that a nonviolent demonstration is possible and pointed out that that was one of the reasons Dr. King was asked to come.

"We didn't bring in Rap Brown, we brought in King."

There were other reasons for having Dr. King, he said. One was to give the movement a "national image." Another was to strengthen the leadership of the Memphis ministers.